Claims

I claim:

1. An identification tag in a form of a single microcircuit, comprising:
an optical transceiver;
a radio transceiver;
a memory storing an identification code connected to the optical transceiver and the radio transceiver;
means for operating at least one of the transceivers in receive mode while operating at least one of the transceivers in transmit mode; and
means for transmitting the identification code by the transceiver operating in the transmit mode in response to receiving a predetermined signal by the transceiver operating in the receive mode.

2. The identification tag of claim 1, in which the optical transceiver includes a single photodiode configured to transmit and receive light signals.

3. The identification tag of claim 1, in which the radio transceiver includes an antenna formed as an induction coil.

4. The identification tag of claim 3, in which the induction coil acquires power for the optical transceiver.

5. The identification tag of claim 4, further comprising:
means for storing the power.

6. The identification tag of claim 1, in which the identification code includes one or more dates.

7. The identification tag of claim 1, in which the received signal is a light signal, and the transmitted signal is a radio signal.

8. The identification tag of claim 1, in which the received signal is a radio signal.

9. The identification tag of claim 1, further comprising:

means for operating at least one of the transceivers in receive mode and transmit mode while operating the other transceivers in transmit mode.

10. The identification tag of claim 1, further comprising:

means for operating at least one of the transceivers in receive mode and transmit mode while operating the other transceivers in receive mode.

11. The identification tag of claim 1, further comprising:

means for operating at least one of the transceivers in receive mode and transmit mode while operating the other transceivers in receive mode and transmit mode.

12. The identification tag of claim 1, further comprising:

means for synchronizing the transmitting and receiving according to receiving light.

13. The identification tag of claim 1, in which the OF transceiver is omni-directional.

14. The identification tag of claim 1, in which the OF transceiver is narrow beam.

15. An identification method, comprising:

storing an identification code in a memory connected to an optical transceiver and an radio transceiver;

operating at least one of the transceivers in receive mode while operating at least one of the transceivers in transmit mode; and

transmitting the identification code by the transceiver operating in the transmit mode in response to receiving a predetermined signal by the transceiver operating in the receive mode.